

Vicar's Letter for June 2017

Dear Friends

June already!! Where is the year disappearing to? I am already enjoying some warmer weather as well as lighter mornings and evenings. I so look forward to more daylight hours and those long summer evenings.

As in our calendar of the months and seasons of the year, so too in the church's calendar we are now entering into the long summer months of Trinity which is a time when we are able to rediscover and learn more deeply what it means to be a follower of the Risen Christ in today's world.

Our Sunday Bible readings have taken us on a long journey through Lent and the glories of Easter through to the Ascension and now into the birth of the church at Pentecost, which we celebrate on June 4th this year, and the growth of the early church across the known world. At Pentecost the early disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem and were filled with the Holy Spirit which enabled them to witness and share the good news. This marked a turning point in God's dealings with the world as a once small, inward looking group of followers of Jesus became a movement that was on fire, sharing God's passion for mission throughout the world

Witnessing to the good news is what we are all called to do too, no matter what age we live in, nor where we live. We are all called to be God's ambassadors by what we do even more than perhaps by what we say.

We all live increasingly complex and busy lives, we live with worries and stresses which can weigh us down and which can narrow our vision of who we are (God's children) and what we are called to be (God's messengers). The feast of Pentecost reminds us that we are never alone but have access to a never ending source of strength and power and energy which is God's gift to us. Tapping into that source is ours for the taking, if we just ask God for it - and it's free too!

At the end of our Pentecost service this year we used the following affirmation:

In our moments of chaos...

**God is with us.**

In our moments of calm...

**God is with us.**

In our moments of life.

**God is with us. Alleluia!**

**We go as a Pentecost people,**

**touched by fire,**

**stirred by wind,**

**to mend the world.**

**Alleluia!**

Perhaps these are words we can use throughout this season to remind us that God is with us, that we are changed, and that we have a purpose and a message to live out, that we are sent and equipped for this by the Holy Spirit's energy and power.

With every blessing

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